

A RESOLUTION to honor Charlotte Webb Collins upon receiving the 1995 Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights.

WHEREAS, each year the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, after a rigorous selection process, chooses a South African and American recipient of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights; receipts of this coveted award must demonstrate extraordinary leadership, personal commitment and accomplishment in the effort to improve the health of underserved populations either in South Africa or the United States; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly and the state of Tennessee are proud to recognize the distinguished American recipient, our own Charlotte Webb Collins of Memphis, a nationally-acclaimed health policy scholar and leader in public health service programs; and

WHEREAS, a steadfast advocate of quality, equitable health care, Ms. Collins is senior vice-president for policy and chief legal counsel for the Regional Medical Center at Memphis, where she oversees all legal matters and government relations, and represents the corporation before federal, state, and local boards and legislative bodies on health policy issues; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Collins embarked upon an exemplary legal career after obtaining a Bachelors of Arts from Morgan State University and a Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center in 1976; and

WHEREAS, our great state was surely fortunate when Ms. Collins moved to Memphis with the IBM Corporation in 1977, after which she began utilizing her talents with Memphis Area Legal Services; and

WHEREAS, her sagacity as an attorney and incredible affinity for the law has also taken her to Washington, D.C. as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University and propelled her into a successful private practice in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, pursuing her interest in health policy law and health care for disadvantaged populations, Ms. Collins came to the Regional Medical Center at Memphis with a strong personal commitment to the field and has demonstrated extraordinary knowledge and activism in her personal and professional life; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Collins is an irreplaceable humanitarian and devout public servant, serving on the board of directors of the TLC Family Care Health Plan, the executive committees of the Memphis and Shelby County Community Health Agency, and the Tennessee Health Care Campaign; and

WHEREAS, she was honored by the Health care Forum and Korn Ferry International as an Emerging Leader in Health care for 1992, was appointed in May, 1994 to the board of directors of the National Public Health and Hospital Institute, and was appointed chairman of Tennessee Public and Teaching Hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Collins, an esteemed attorney, lauded health policy expert, public servant, and exemplary citizen, is most deserving of her recent high accolade, the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights, an award which “underscores the parallel link between race and poverty” and is a “vehicle by which access to health services in both societies can be addressed as an urgent issue”; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this General Assembly recognizes and honors Charlotte Webb Collins for her many accomplishments in health care, including her most recent distinction as the 1995 Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights recipient from the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.